

REMARKS

This Request for Reconsideration is offered in response to the Office Action of August 1, 2003.

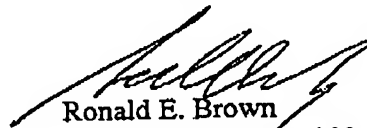
The Office Action has rejected Claims 40-42 and 48-50 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by the Thomas reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,713,669) or the Dobreski reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,669,715). Similarly, the Office Action rejected Claims 40-42 and 48-50 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by the Stolmeier reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,257,763); rejected Claims 40 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by the Thieman reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,924); and rejected Claims 41, 42, 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the Thieman reference in view of the Hustad reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,456,928).

It is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims were copied from issued patents (these issued patents cited the Thomas, Dobreski and Hustad references). As the issued claims were found patentable over these references, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are presumed valid and that it would be inequitable and inconsistent for these claims to be rejected in the present application. It would likewise be inequitable and inconsistent for the present applicant to be required to amend the copied claims or make statements which may be construed as file wrapper estoppels in order to gain allowance of these claims.

The cited disclosure of the Thieman reference (col. 6, lines 6-16) is textually only, and does not appear to disclose the "removing" of the tamper evident structure as recited in Claims 40 and 48. Likewise, it is unclear whether the cited disclosure of the Stolmeier reference (col. 3, lines 59 et seq.) would prevent movement of the slider when sheet 60 is in place, thereby not anticipating Claim 40 or 48. Moreover, the Stolmeier and Thieman references do not disclose or suggest the "opening" that provides access to the slider device of Claim 48.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as herein are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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